

REMARKS

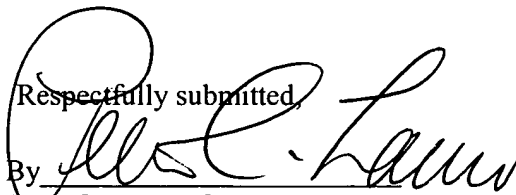
This application is the U.S. national phase, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §371, of PCT/US2004/013721, filed May 3, 2004, which was published in English as WO2004/105910 A2 on December 9, 2004 and which claims the benefit of U.S. provisional application Ser. No. 60/474,068, filed May 28, 2003. Page 1 of the specification has been amended to reflect this information.

Claims 53-105, 108-181, 184-193 and 196-245 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 106, 107, 194 and 247-251 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-52, 106, 107, 182, 183, 194, 195 and 246-251 will be pending in this application upon entry of the instant Preliminary Amendment.

The claim cancellations and amendments were made to reduce the number of claims and eliminate multiple claim dependencies, for the purpose of reducing the excess claims fees, and to correct minor typographical errors. No new matter has been added. Applicants hereby reserve the right to pursue the claims as originally filed, or similar claims, in one or more patent applications.

Applicants respectfully request early examination on the merits and allowance of the application. If it would be helpful for consideration of this Preliminary Amendment and/or to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number shown below.

Dated: November 28, 2005

Respectfully submitted,
By 
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